

EPI Update for Friday, October 29, 2010

Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **RSV activity confirmed in Eastern Iowa**
- **Flu vaccination campaign materials**
- **Vaccine storage and handling**
- **Pine Mouth Syndrome**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

RSV activity confirmed in Eastern Iowa

A child in Eastern Iowa has been confirmed with RSV by the State Hygienic Laboratory (SHL). The number of RSV rapid tests is slowly increasing as is the percent of positive tests. The threshold of 10 percent positive is typically not exceeded until late November to early December. RSV surveillance data is in the influenza weekly report at

www.idph.state.ia.us/IdphArchive/Archive.aspx?channel=FluReports.

RSV infection is common in young children and infants, and may cause serious illness in even previously healthy children. Children and infants with heart or lung conditions, or that were born prematurely may be eligible for preventative treatment when RSV is circulating in Iowa.

Flu vaccination campaign materials

A media campaign to promote seasonal influenza vaccination began running on TV, radio and online across Iowa on October 18, 2010. The campaign ads contain the national tag line "The Flu Ends With U."

Campaign materials include:

- Web Banners - Two sizes of Adobe Flash web banners for websites, which link to the campaign website.
- Posters (12" X 18") with space for healthcare providers to write in clinic details, available for free from the Health Protection Clearinghouse at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization_products.asp or by calling 1-888-398-9696.
- Stickers (2.5" diameter) that say "The flu ends with me" – for patients following vaccination – are also available through the Clearinghouse.

For more information on campaign materials, visit www.TheFluEndsWithUIowa.com.

Vaccine storage and handling

There are few immunization issues more important than appropriate vaccine storage and handling! Every person to whom you administer a dose of vaccine is dependent on YOUR correct vaccine storage and handling procedures to ensure receiving a vaccine that works.

Exposure of vaccines to temperatures outside the recommended range will adversely affect potency. Physical changes are not visible when vaccine has been compromised by thermotrauma. Correct storage and administration is the only way to assure efficacy.

Vaccine storage requirements:

- Refrigerator: 35 – 46[°] F or 2 through 8[°] C, aim for 40[°] F or strive for 5[°] C
- Freezer: Less than or equal to 5[°] F or less than or equal to -15[°] C

Every clinic needs a plan for daily vaccine management, emergency management in case of power failure, proper equipment, and staff training.

Immediate action must be taken if the temperatures are outside the recommended ranges.



- Do not administer vaccine that has been stored or handled incorrectly
- Store the vaccine under proper conditions, and get the vaccine in these conditions as quickly as possible after shipping
- If you have concerns about an improper storage and handling issue, call the vaccine manufacturer(s) to determine if the vaccine is still viable and potent

IDPH Immunization Program is available for vaccine storage and handling consultation at 1-800-831-6293.

The immunization program also has vaccine storage and handling resources on its website at www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/immunization.asp

The resources include:

- Vaccine storage and handling guidelines/management
- Emergency response template

- Emergency response plan and worksheet
- Temperature logs
- How to protect your vaccine supply
 [Watch This Video](#)  (.wmv) (23:00)

Pine Mouth Syndrome

An area physician reported two patients complaining of an acidic, metallic taste in their mouths approximately two days after eating imported pine nuts purchased at a local store. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken many complaints related to this taste disturbance which can last a few weeks. If an individual has these symptoms, FDA encourages them to call 1-888-SAFEFOOD to file a complaint.

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None.

Have a healthy and happy and frosty week!

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